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Student Building

at

Ohio State University

and

Ohio Union



An Extract from the Minutes of the Board of Trustees.

Columbus, Ohio, December 30th, 1908.

"The Board of Trustees met at the call of the President at the Neil House. Present, F. E. Pomerene, Pres., John T. Mack, F. A. Derthick and O. E. Bradfute.

The following communication was received from the Ohio Union, and on motion of Mr. Bradfute the plan as outlined in said communication was agreed to, and the suggested Committee was formally appointed."

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 19, 1908.

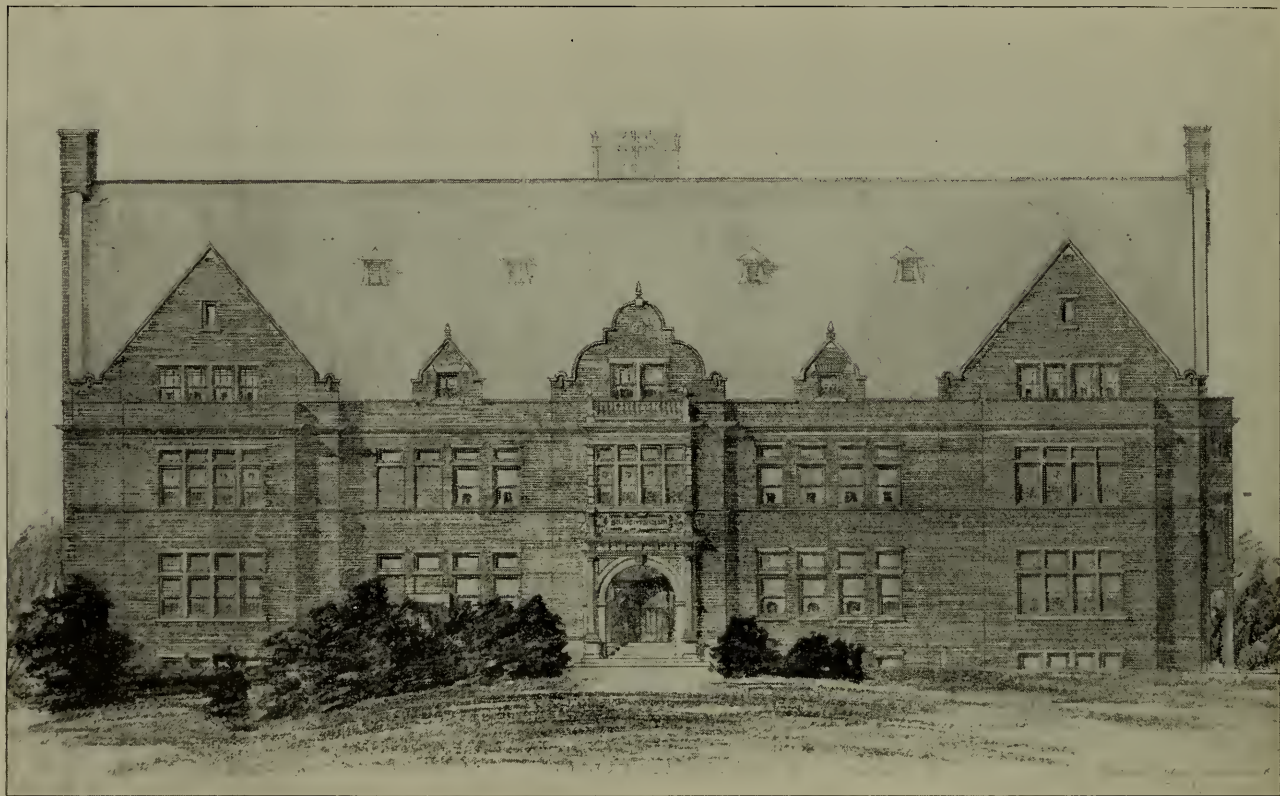
Honorable Board of Trustees, Ohio State University.

Gentlemen:—At a meeting of the student body held October 16, 1908, for the purpose of electing officers for the various student organizations of the university, a plan was presented for the organization of a committee to take charge of the solicitation and expenditure of funds for the furnishing of the new Student Building.

This plan, which originated in the Student Council, was ratified by the students, and seven representatives were elected to membership on the committee as follows: Aaron B. Cohn, B. Frank Miller, G. Harold Janeway, Paul W. Barnes, Chas. Sherman, Arthur S. Albright, and H. M. Wilson.

This committee then organized as follows: Aaron B. Cohn, President; G. Harold Janeway, Vice-president; Paul W. Barnes, Secretary; B. Frank Miller, Corresponding Secretary.

The original plan provided that the students should select two members of the faculty and one member of the alumni to serve with them. After organization the student representatives



South Elevation.

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elected Professor Edward Orton, Jr. and Professor Wm. W. Boyd as faculty members on the committee and Mr. Carl Steeb as alumnus member.

This committee, thus organized, has held a number of meetings and desires to make the following recommendations:

1. That all funds collected by this committee be covered into the treasury of the University through the hands of the Secretary of your Board.
2. That all such funds be placed to the credit of the committee.
3. That all disbursements be made upon the requisition of the President and the Secretary of the Committee, according to a general plan agreed upon by the committee and your honorable body, or such representatives as you may name.
4. That this committee be empowered to draw up a statement defining the policy and purposes of the Student Building, subject to your approval.
5. That, when the building shall be nearly completed and ready for occupation, this committee shall be empowered to formulate a plan for the permanent management and control of the building, subject to your approval.

We therefore respectfully request your honorable body, if this plan meets with your approval, to sanction the action which has been taken by appointing the undersigned as your representatives for the purposes named above, and such other services as you may require.

Respectfully submitted,

B. Frank Miller,
H. M. Wilson,
Aaron B. Cohn,
Arthur S. Albright,

Paul W. Barnes,
G. Harold Janeway,
Chas. F. Sherman.

Carl E. Steeb,
Edward Orton, Jr.,
Wm. W. Boyd.

} Committee



North Elevation.

The Ohio State University.

The Ohio State University was established in 1873. It is located on a beautiful tract of land of 435 acres in the north end of Columbus, and consists of seven colleges; Agriculture, Arts, Education, Engineering, Law, Pharmacy, and Veterinary Medicine. It has twenty-one buildings devoted to instruction, and the value of the whole plant is over \$3,500,000.

**Location
and
Size.**

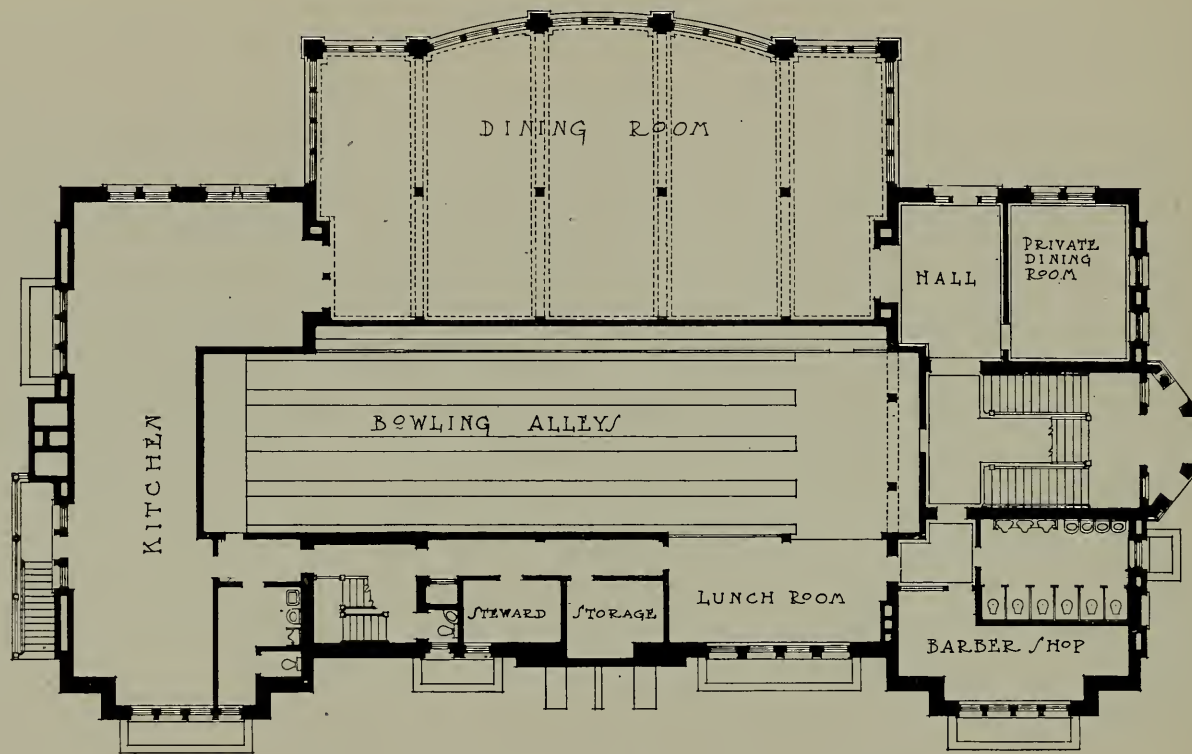
There are at present 209 members of the faculty and 2,442 students. There are 2,000 male students. Each county in Ohio is represented, as well as 30 other states and 10 foreign countries. The increase in students at the opening of this year was 320. During the last year there were over 2700 different students enrolled, so the total enrollment this year will exceed 3,000 students. The Ohio State University is rapidly becoming the center for higher and technical education in Ohio.

Enrollment.

Student Conditions.

The University has no system of dormitories, except a small dormitory for women, and is thus unable to exercise any direct control over the students after they leave the class room. These students are congregated in a small section surrounding the University and dwell, for the most part, with private families. Here they have only their sleeping rooms in which to stay, and if they desire to see their friends or amuse themselves in hours of leisure, they have no place to do it, unless they go to the city, where all the vices are at hand to tempt the weak. It is a fact that, yearly, many young students are led astray and drop out of the college because they are compelled to go to the city to spend their hours of recreation.

**No Place of
Recreation.**



PLAN of BASEMENT

Within the student body are literary societies and various other social, religious, musical and educational organizations. These societies meet in various places around the University and have no place where they can all congregate.

**Organiza-
tions.**

The campus is large and the nearest rooming houses are at least ten minutes walk from the buildings. This makes it hard for students to seek their rooms, especially in inclement weather, when they have hours between recitations which should be spent in study. The result is that they are compelled to kill time in the hallways. There are no waiting, smoking, or writing rooms for the men, nor offices for the committees or student publications.

**No Place
to Study
between
Recitations.**

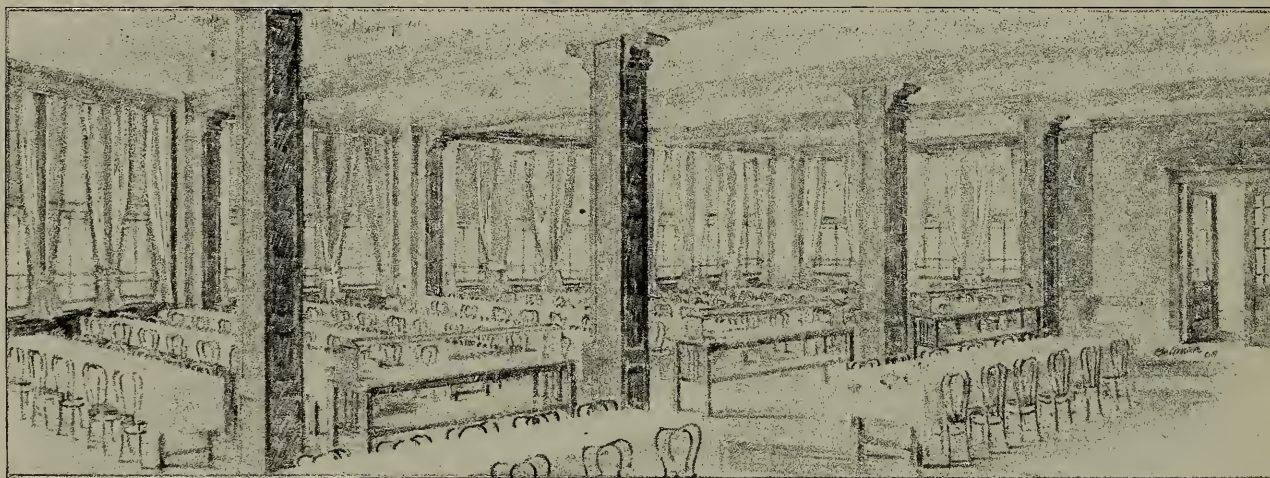
These are some of the disadvantages resulting from the lack of a student building, which will now be remedied.

History of the Effort to Secure the Building.

The movement to secure a Student Building to supply this evident need started as early as 1892, when an effort was made by the Ohio State Y. M. C. A. to erect such a building for themselves; but their effort was spent the same year, reviving again in 1898, only to meet with a similar fate.

**Efforts of
Y. M. C. A.**

Seven years later the increasing demand for such a center for the students again induced the Y. M. C. A. to attempt the proposition, and an organized effort was made to secure the necessary funds by subscription from the students, faculty, alumni, City Board of Trade, friends of the University and from any other source possible.



Restaurant.

At first the problem seemed to be solved. The Columbus Board of Trade promised to raise \$100,000, the students and faculty pledged \$19,000 and the building seemed a probability. But active work on the plan was delayed so long that the time limit to the pledges of the students and faculty expired, and the project began to lose prominence.

Unsuccess-
ful.

In the fall of 1907 the matter was again taken up, and a final attempt determined upon by a general meeting of influential men of the student body. A plan was finally conceived by which the necessary funds could be secured from the State by the students, and an organized effort was started to secure an appropriation from the Legislature. The entire student body co-operated in the executive part of the plan by writing to their friends at home and also to the Legislators from their districts, explaining the need of a Student Building at Ohio State, and asking for all the influence that could be brought to bear on the Legislature.

Final
Attempt
By Student
Body.

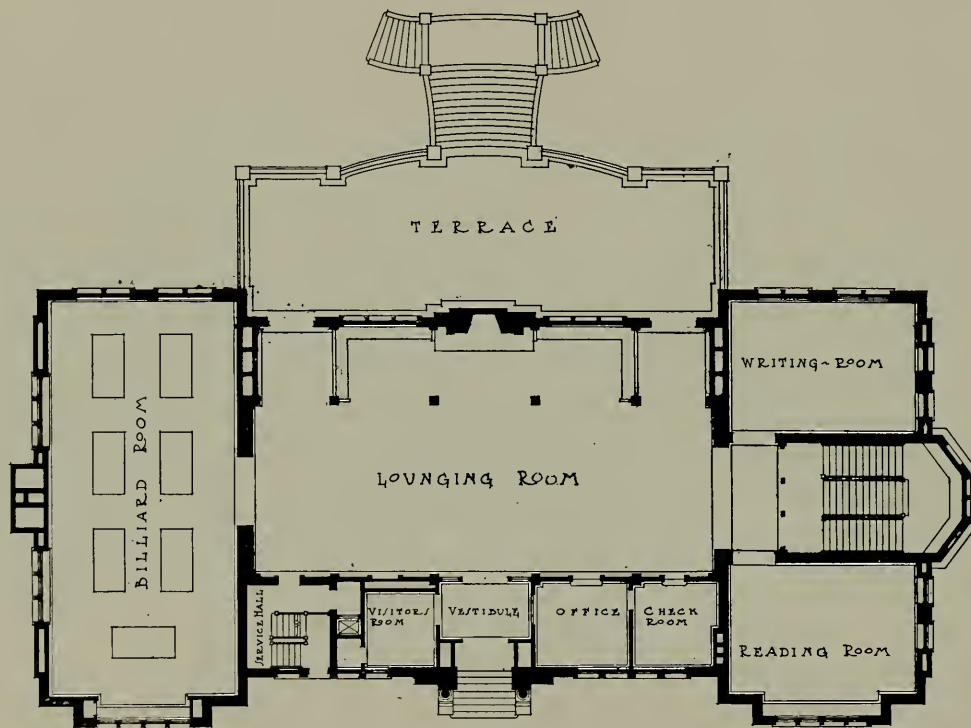
Every possible influence was brought to bear and finally, the Student Building Bill was reported favorably from the Finance Committee of the House as a part of the General Appropriation Bill. The Bill appropriating \$75,000 for the Student Building was approved by the Senate on May 2, 1908, and the golden dreams of the students were fulfilled.

Appropri-
ation by
Legislature.

Immediate Needs.

But those connected with the University realized that the University was growing with such strides that a building built and equipped from this sum would soon be insufficient, and we would soon be in cramped quarters. So it was decided by the Board of Trustees that almost all the \$75,000 should be put into the construction of the building and the students be requested to raise the \$25,000 necessary to furnish and equip it.

Appropri-
ation Inade-
quate.



PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR

Accordingly a student committee known as the Ohio Union Committee was chosen by the general student body to raise this necessary \$25,000 to furnish and equip the building.

The contract has been let and the building is now in process of construction. The contract makes necessary its completion by October next. And it is the purpose of the Committee to have the building equipped and ready for use soon after the opening of the school year 1909. Thus it is necessary for you to give your hearty financial support and co-operation, or when school opens next fall we will have a fine building but will be unable to use it, because of lack of equipment.

**\$25,000
must be
raised to
equip the
Building be-
fore we can
use it.**

We have every reason to believe that the support will be forthcoming. At the last attempt to secure a Student Building \$19,000.00 was subscribed by students and faculty without any assurance of a building. But now we have a \$75,000 building assured and in course of construction, and are only asking for funds necessary to equip it, in order that we may use it. Therefore it rests with *you* whether or not we shall be able to use this building when completed; and *you* can make this possible only by lending your hearty support, financial and otherwise. "Boost Ohio State and the Student Building."

**It Rests
with YOU.**

Description and Advantages of the Building.

The accompanying plans and elevations show the completeness with which the project has been carried out, but fail to give an adequate idea of the building's true worth and beauty.

The architecture of the new structure harmonizes well with Oxley Hall, the girl's dormitory, and will be an attractive addition to the campus.

**Architec-
ture.**

The location is due south of Orton Hall and about midway between Orton Hall and Eleventh Avenue. The site plan on page 22 shows the location of the buildings and the plan of future development of this part of the campus.

Location.**South
Elevation.**

The South elevation (see page 2) shows the entrance which faces Eleventh Avenue.

**North
Elevation.**

The North elevation (see page 4) gives some idea of the broad spacious terrace which faces Orton Hall and the ravine leading toward the spring. This terrace is approached by an ornate stairway leading up to it, and the lobby is entered by two large French windows at either end of the terrace. The large chimney in the middle of the terrace is for the fire place on the North side of the lobby—one of its most attractive features. (See cut of lobby.)

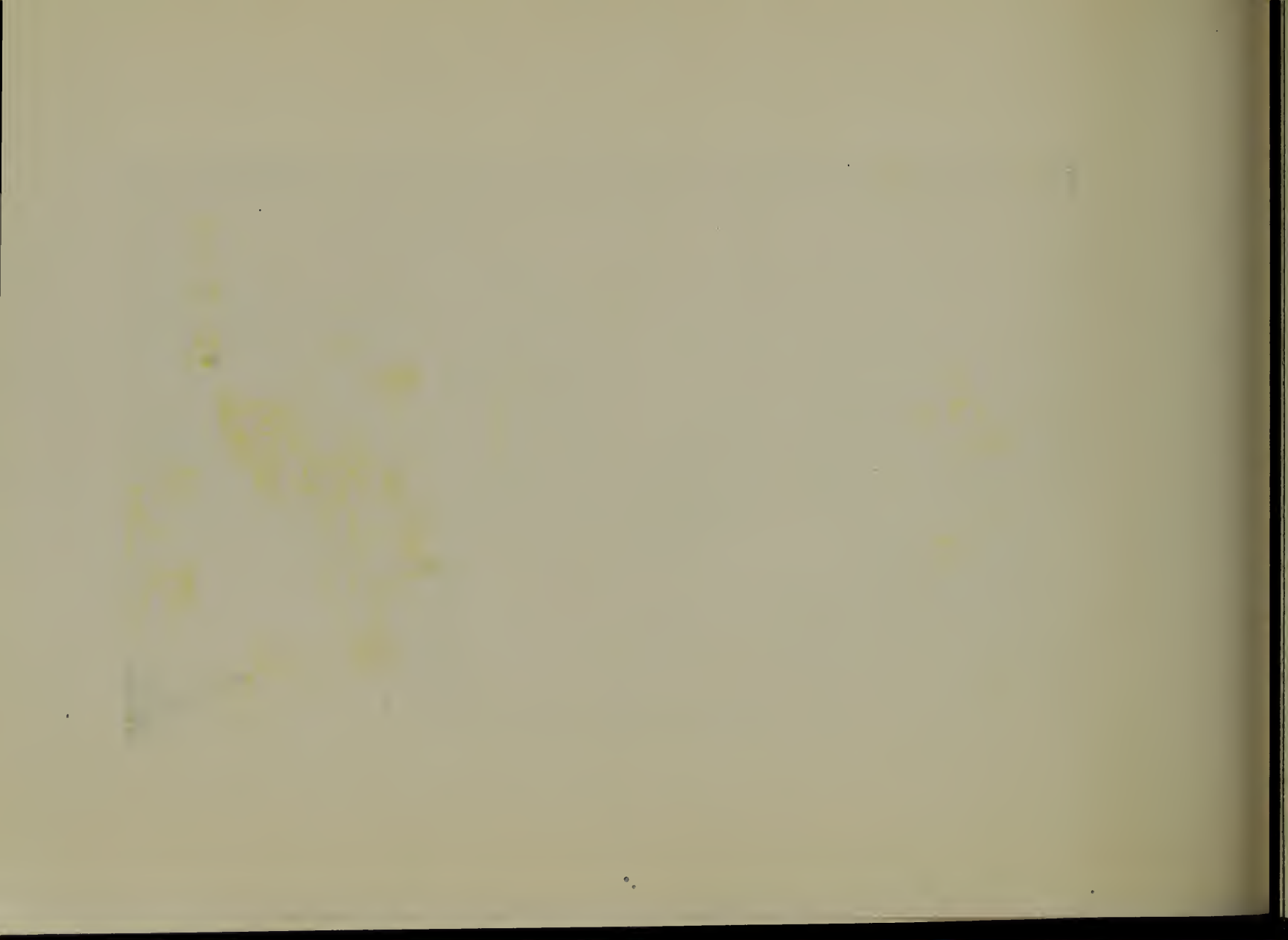
The Lobby.**Billiard and
Pool Room.****Reading and
Writing
Rooms.****Other Rooms**

Entering the building by the Eleventh Avenue entrance we find ourselves, after passing through the vestibule, in a large lobby or lounging room. This is one of the most attractive features of the building, being designed with the idea of comfort and beauty. Here the students can come and enjoy quiet relaxation during vacant hours. The illustration gives but a hint of what the room really will be. Out of the lobby to the left opens the large billiard room, extending across the end of the building, and containing the billiard and pool tables. To the right of the lobby are two large rooms of about the same size, one the reading, and the other the writing room. These will be a great convenience as there are at present no such accommodation for the students. Between these two rooms the broad stairway leads up to the upper floors. On either side of the Eleventh Avenue entrance to the building are arranged the offices, check-rooms and the visitor's room.

Ascending the stairway to the second floor the main feature is seen to be the large Trophy



THE LOBBY.



Hall, occupying the center of this floor. In this room will be kept all the athletic trophies, such as cups, pennants, footballs, etc., and all awards of merit in other lines of college endeavor. **Trophy Hall.**

Arranged around the Trophy Hall are the Y. M. C. A. offices, Board room, and toilet rooms. Besides these are two large rooms at the west end which can be used for musical organizations, The Strollers, conventions, Y. M. C. A. meetings, etc. **Y. M. C. A. Offices.**
Board Room.
Meeting Rooms.

Upon gaining the third floor we find the large Assembly Hall, where the college theatricals, lectures of different kinds, entertainments, and dances will be given. The floor is ample in size for all ordinary uses. One of the attractive features here is the system of alcoves and cozy corners built around the two sides. **Assembly Hall.**

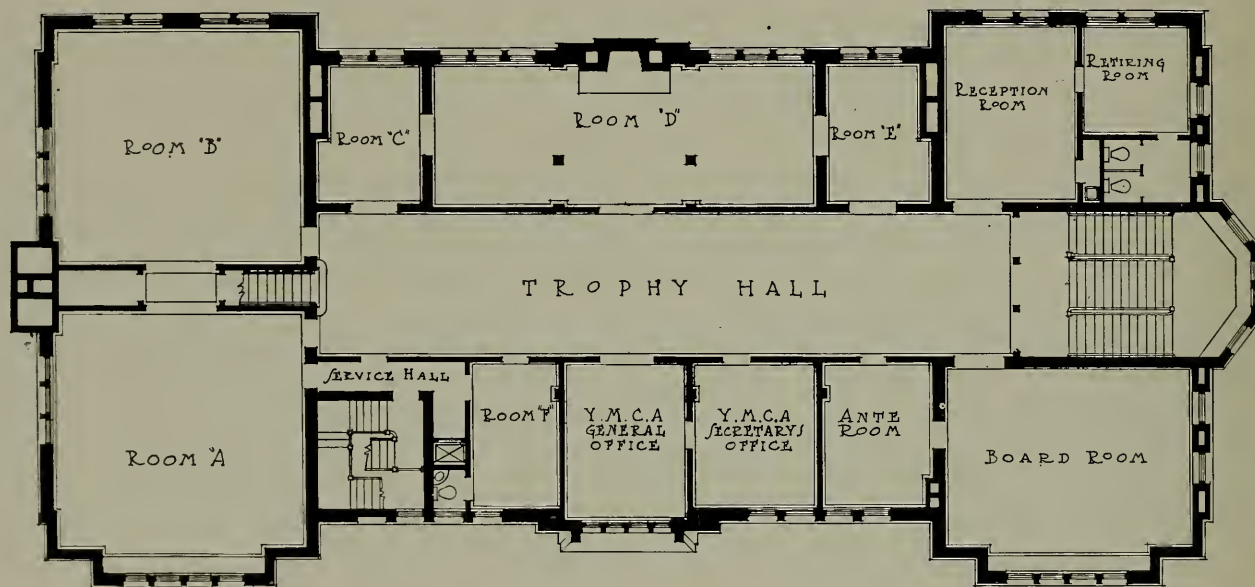
Communicating with the Hall are dressing rooms, and arrangement is also made for a complete stage equipment.

Further, the third floor contains five bedrooms for accommodating guests of the University. These are not to be used as student dormitories. **Guest Rooms**

At the extreme west end will be found the offices for all student publications. Here the "Lantern" will have its headquarters, and there will be accommodations for the Makio Board, and others. Quarters for the steward and janitor will also be found at this end of the floor. **Student Publications.**

Upon descending to the basement, still more attractive features are disclosed. Here are the ordinary and private dining rooms, lunch room, bowling alleys, barber-shop, and steward's office. **Bowling Alleys.**

The restaurant is to be run with no idea of profit, as the main object is to benefit the students. The same is also true of all the paying features of the building. **Restaurant.**



PLAN of SECOND FLOOR

Plan and Purpose of the Ohio Union.

With such a building assured, the question naturally arises: How will it be controlled? Of course it will be a University building, owned by the State and under the general control and supervision of the University authorities, as are all the other buildings on the campus. But being a student's building, it is intended that it shall be under the direct supervision of the students, and financially maintained or operated by them. Hence the necessity for a student organization was at once apparent. The question was taken up by the Student Council and it was decided that a student Committee consisting of seven members from the three upper classes of the University should be elected at the regular class elections by the three upper classes, and that these, together with two members of the faculty and one member of the alumni should constitute a committee to organize the Ohio Union and raise the necessary funds to properly equip the building.

**Control of
Building.**

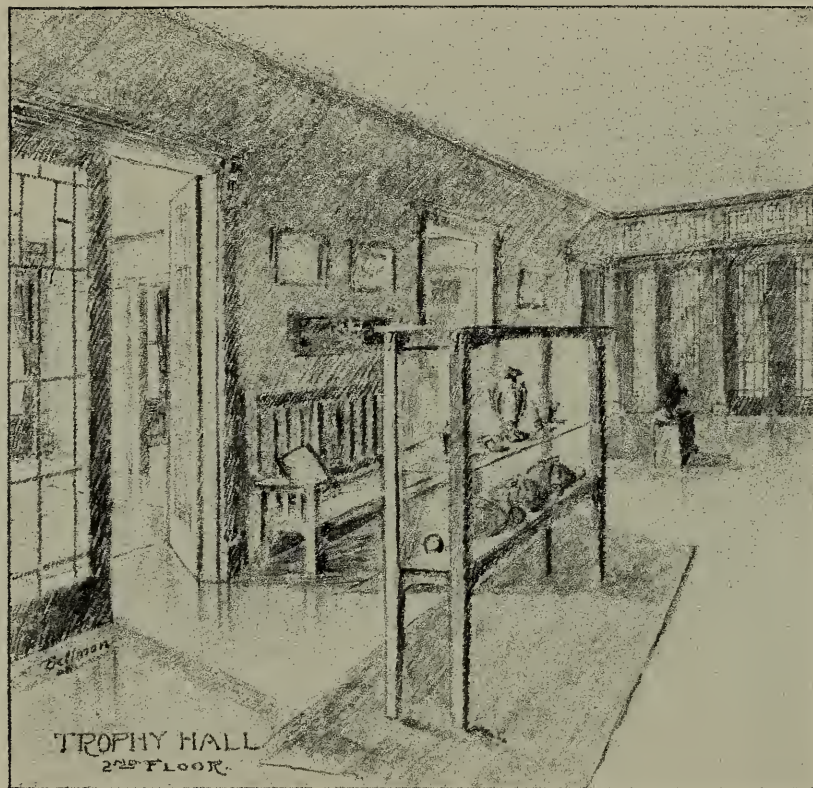
**Organiza-
tion.**

Now what is the Union to be? For what will it stand, and what will it hope to accomplish? As its name indicates it will be an organization, a union for Ohio State men, graduates, undergraduates, faculty and alumni, which shall grow in size and influence with each year, and be a never ending influence for the good of Ohio State. Its avowed purpose will be to promote University spirit, and to increase social intercourse and acquaintance with each other's work among the members of the different departments and other University organizations. One of the principal benefits which it is hoped will accrue from this organization is the increase of a proper University spirit. The advantages to the students as individuals and to the University

**What the
Union
will be.**

Its Purpose.

**Benefit to
Students.**



Trophy Hall.

itself from such increased spirit are too apparent to require mention. The Union should come to be a quasi-official means of communication between faculty and students. It should and doubtless will make its influence felt in the right direction in all questions affecting student life primarily, but also in matters virtually affecting the University itself. The Anglo-Saxon community young or old, has always demonstrated capacity for self-government, and it can hardly be doubted that the students at Ohio State can and will do much for themselves, which now remains undone, under such guidance and regulation and with such machinery as the Union will afford.

**Also to the
University.**

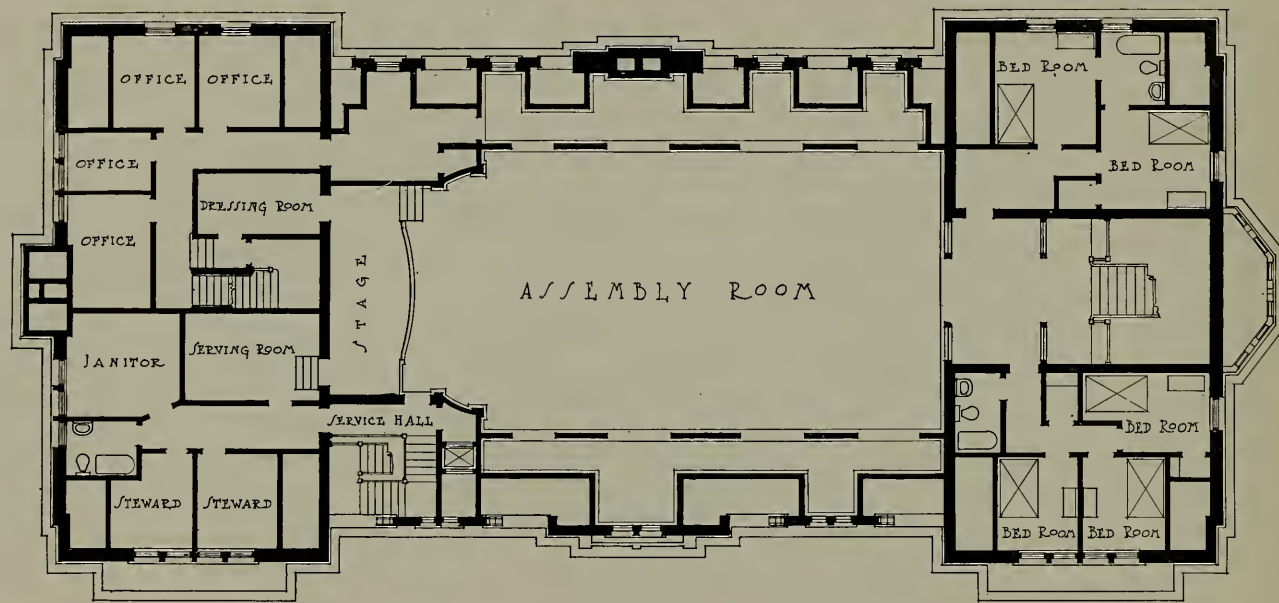
For one who realizes that human nature is essentially social, that the social instinct is wholesome and commendable, that it is never more strong and insistent than at the student age, it is difficult to comprehend how anyone can doubt the wisdom of providing an adequate and wholesome outlet, which shall lead this instinct along healthful and inspiring lines, rather than let it waste itself, or find expression in ways and places deleterious to student welfare in every respect. It is this function which the Union proposes for itself and its club-house. President Woodrow Wilson in an address, gave admirable expression to this whole idea, when he said in substance that, "after all, perhaps the greatest part of education, mental and moral, is derived from that attrition of mind upon mind which takes place in the companionship of student with student, after recitations are finished."

**Social Needs
at Ohio
State.**

**Moral Value
of the Club
House.**

A Glance at Other Similar Organizations.

The fact that other universities are supporting student clubs of this nature is enough to assure us that the thing can be done, and done successfully. The good they do is inestimable, and Ohio State must not fall behind in a case like this.



PLAN of THIRD FLOOR

Thus at Harvard, the Harvard Union has come to be a recognized and highly valued factor in all university life, and has enlisted not only the commendation but also the active support of Pres. Eliot, members of the corporation, and faculties, because it has proved to be the most hopeful and wholesome influence in Harvard student life.

At Harvard.

And so we find at Columbia, Brown, Pennsylvania, and at other American and British universities, which were already much better equipped with means of social life, organizations similar to our Union have been formed; that they are housed in splendid club houses and are rendering valuable and highly appreciated services to the university life. At Chicago, Pres. Harper took the keenest personal interest in the project and secured an endowment for the splendid Reynolds Club, as it is called, which together with the Hutchin's Commons, the Quadrangle Club and the dormitories, serve all the functions proposed for the Ohio State Student Building.

**Columbia,
Brown, Penn
and others.**

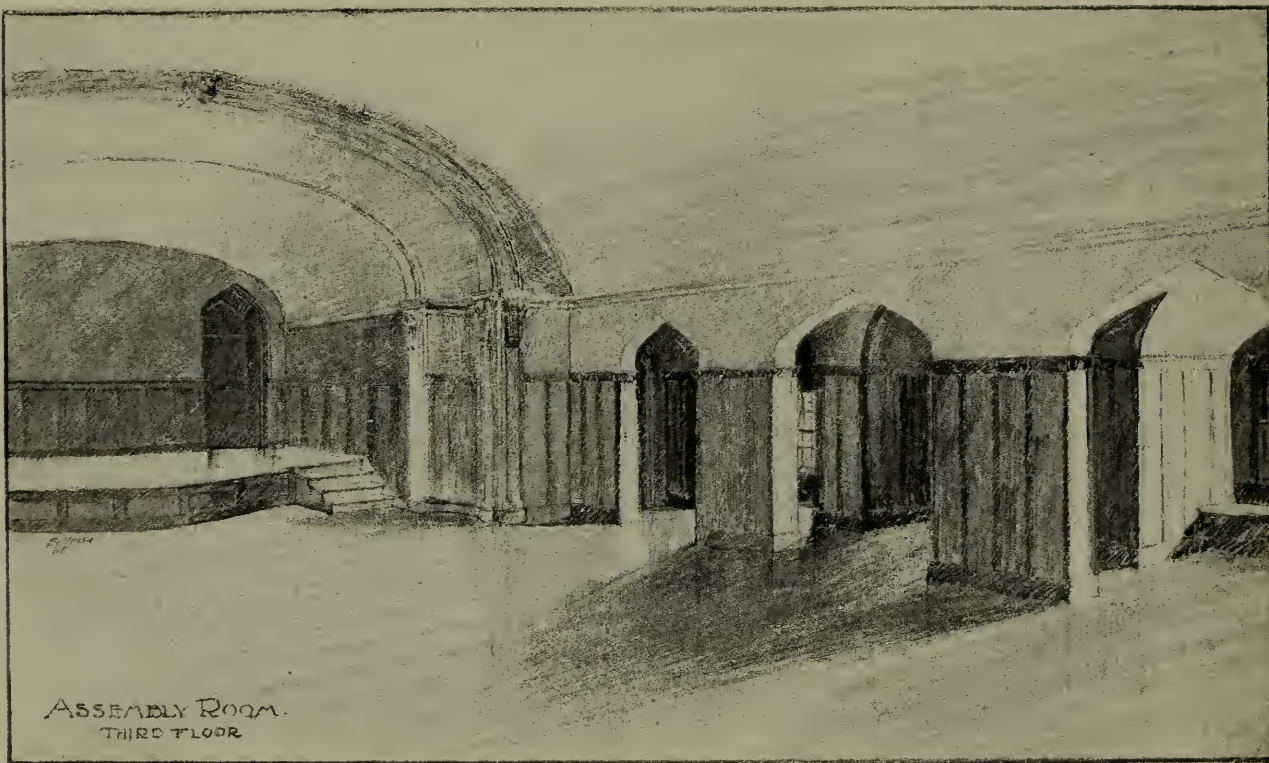
At Chicago.

Dr. C. R. Henderson, chaplain of the University, said in a recent letter:

"I can say that Reynolds Club has brought to our community very great advantages, and that its influence seems to be wholly good, and it certainly brightens and beautifies life for the young men."

**The Rey-
nolds Club.**

Resting as it does upon such universal traits of human nature, with objects so entirely wholesome and commendable, with its great usefulness proven by successful experiments at other universities, it would be strange indeed if there were any considerable opposition to, or criticism of, the Student Union project.



ASSEMBLY ROOM.
THIRD FLOOR

Assembly Room.

What the Student Building will not be.

1. In no sense of the word will it be a hotel. The bedrooms and guest rooms will be for the exclusive use of University guests, such as lecturers and commencement orators and visiting alumni. This will be an incidental feature and the building is so designed that that portion of it devoted to such purposes can be easily shut off, when not in use, from the rest of the building and thus save expense of care and heating.

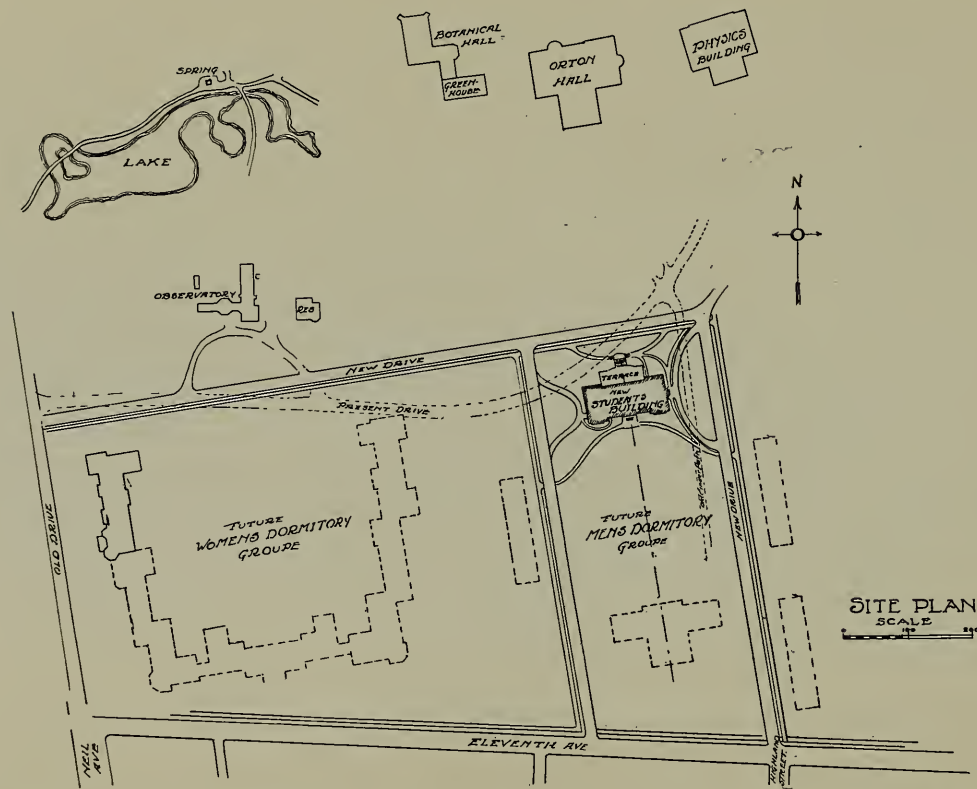
2. It will not contain the objectionable features of city clubs. There will be no bar. The use of intoxicating liquors, all species of gambling and any other features which would tend to make it otherwise than a clean and wholesome social center for the students will be absolutely prohibited.

3. It will not be a dormitory or lodging club for students. No rooms will be let for that purpose.

4. It will not be dominated by any organization, Y. M. C. A., fraternal, athletic, or otherwise. All organizations are provided for as shown by accompanying plans and description of the building; but the Club House is to be a common center for all Ohio State men and not for any particular class or classes. The purposes for which it is intended can only be accomplished in that way.

Conditions of Membership.

It is the intention of the Ohio Union Committee to bring the advantages of the Building within the reach of every under-graduate. At most the membership dues will be only nominal and such as will be necessary for the maintenance of the Building. It is the hope of the Committee that *eventually* the privileges of the Building may be free to every student.



Map of part of the Campus, showing relative position of the Student Building and the present and projected Dormitories.

Student Buildings at Other Universities.

University of Virginia	\$ 90,000
University of Pennsylvania	180,000
Columbia	65,000
Yale	130,000
Brown	75,000
Harvard	150,000
McGill	110,000
Cornell	65,000
University of Iowa	40,000
University of Wisconsin	85,000
University of Indiana	50,000
University of Illinois	100,000

Executive Committee of Ohio Union.

Aaron B. Cohn, President.

G. Harold Janeway, Vice President.

Paul W. Barnes, Secretary.

B. Frank Miller, Corresponding Sec'y.

H. M. Wilson.

Arthur S. Albright.

Chas. S. Sherman.

ALUMNUS MEMBER,

Carl E. Steeb.

FACULTY MEMBERS,

Edward Orton, Jr.,

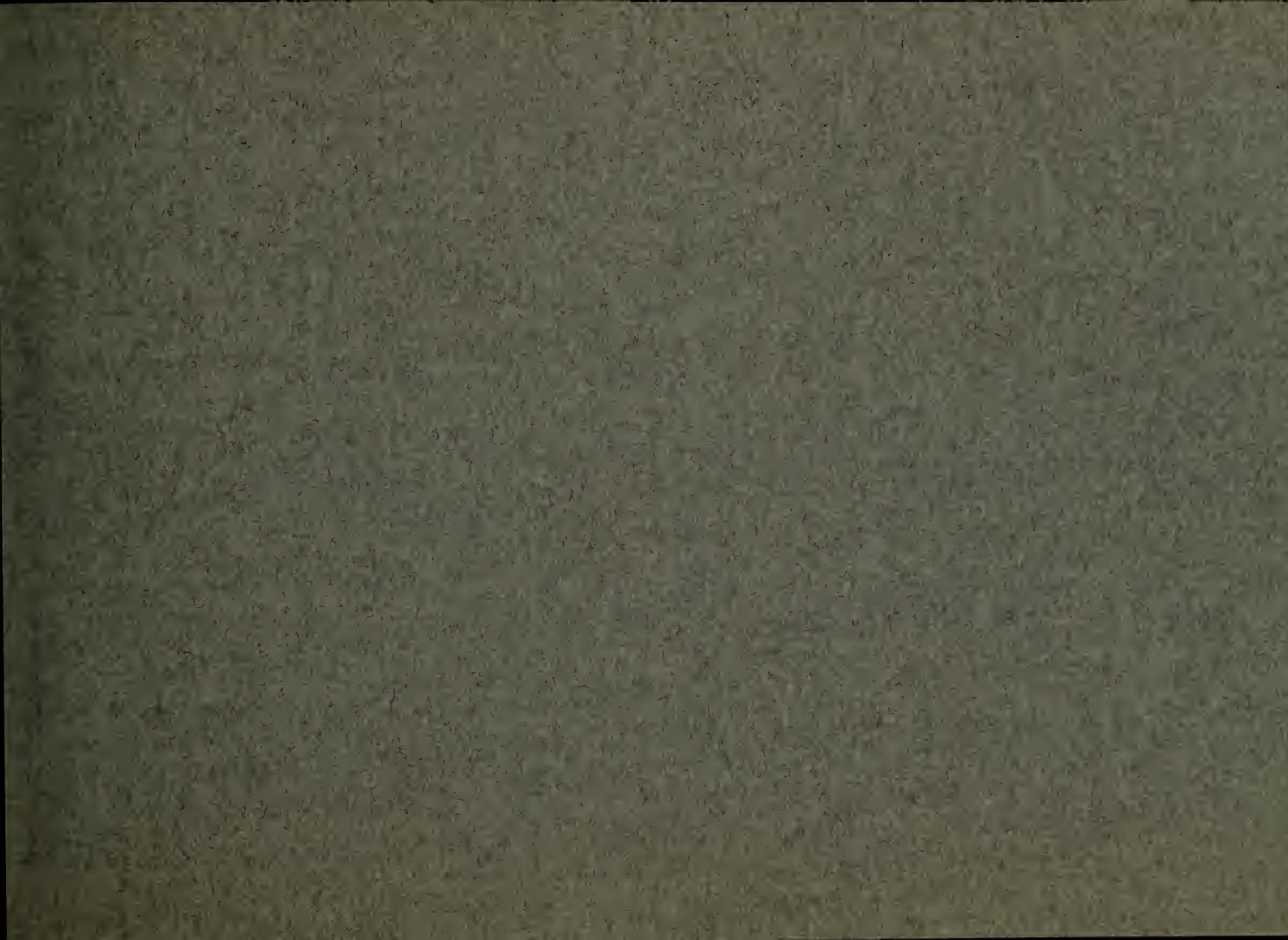
W. W. Boyd.

Address all communications to

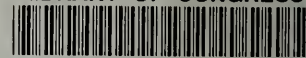
THE OHIO UNION,

Committee Room, Main Building,

Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.



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